

Message Text

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42

ACTION OES-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5236

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TGEN, UR

SUBJ: FURTHER POSTPONEMENT OF USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ELECTIONS

1. OCTOBER 4 ACADEMICIAN BORIS PETROV, CHAIRMAN OF INTERKOSMOS COUNCIL INFORMED NASA ADMINISTRATOR DR. FLETCHER THAT USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ELECTION ARE NOT GOING TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER BUT LATER.
2. PETROV DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE REASON FOR THIS SECOND POSTPONE-
MENT. FYI BECAUSE OF AN OPERATION OF HIS LEG ACADEMY PRESIDENT
KELDYSH RESIGNED LAST MAY AND ACADEMICIAN KOTELNIKOV WAS APPOINTED
ACTING PRESIDENT.
3. FORMER PRESIDENT KELDYSH APPEARS NOW IN REASONABLY GOOD
HEALTH, HE NOW REGULARLY ATTENDS HIGH LEVEL FUNCTIONS. IT IS NOT
KNOWN WHETHER HIS RECOVERY HAS COMPLICATED THE
DIFFICULTIES OF USSR ACADEMY TO SELECT A NEW PRESIDENT FROM AMONG
A LARGE NUMBER OF POTENTIAL CANDIDATES.
4. A VERY LIKELY EXPLANATION FOR FURTHER POSTPONEMENT IS THAT
KOTELNIKOV NEEDS MORE TIME TO CONSOLIDATE HIS POSITION BEFORE
HE CAN COUNT ON SUFFICIENT SUPPORT IN A SECRET BALLOT ELECTION.
IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT A VERY RECENT SUGGESTED GUEST
LIST FOR EMBASSY RECEPTION RECEIVED FROM THE FOREIGN RELATIONS
DEPARTMENT OMITTS "ACTING" FROM KOTELNIKOV'S TITLE OF PRESIDENT.
CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE OF PRESIDUM RAN OUT LAST MAY BUT
WAS EXTENDED THROUGH NOVEMBER 1975.

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